

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The Office Action dated July 22, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and considered. Claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 16-21 were last presented for examination. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled without prejudice in favor of a continuing, re-issue or re-examination application. New claims 23 and 24 are presented for further examination. The claim objections and the claim rejections under 35 USC 112 and 35 USC 103 are rendered moot by cancellation of claims 1-22 without prejudice.

Previously presented claims were rejected over Hanson, Opher et al., Brendel et al., Bohm et al., Chong et al., and Maezawa et al., in various combinations. None of the references cited by the Examiner taken either singly or in combination disclose the novel and unique features of the present invention, as set forth in claims 23 and 24.

Hanson discloses a prepaid telecommunication system with unregistered roaming call processing. The Examiner has argued that the structure illustrated in Figure 3 discloses all of the limitations set forth in Applicant's previously presented claims. Applicant's newly presented claims clearly distinguish from Hanson. For example, Hanson does not show "a first host device" and a "second host device". Further, there is no disclosure in Hanson of "a first host-side link that is connected to said first host device and not any other host devices" and "a second host-side link that is connected to said second host device, and not said first host device." Further, there is no disclosure in Hanson of "a first switch matrix that is connected to said first host-side link and not any other host-side links, and to said plurality of first storage-side links that is operative to establish communication channels between said first host-side link and any of said plurality of first storage-side links, but not establishing any communication channels between any of said plurality of first storage-side links." As disclosed in Hanson, the database server 114, as well as the call processor 106, is disposed between the switch matrix 104 and the mirrored storage devices 116. The further routing caused by the database server 114, as well as the delays created by call processor 106, delay the communication of data in the Hanson device.

Applicant's invention is specifically directed to a system to increase the speed of transmission of data and has specifically eliminated devices such as the database server 114, and any other device such as a call processor 106. Claim 23 specifically distinguishes from the Hanson reference by stating "a plurality of first storage-side links connected directly to said plurality of storage devices without going through a router, said plurality of first storage-side links including a plurality of first storage-side interfaces that send and receive data directly to and from said plurality of storage devices without going through a router." Similar limitations are included with regard to these plurality of second storage-side links.

Further, claim 23 recites "a first switch matrix ... that is operative to establish communication channels between said first host-side link and any of said plurality of first storage-side links, but not establishing any communication channels between any of said plurality of first storage-side links." A similar limitation is included with respect to the second switch matrix. Database server 114 of Hanson is certainly capable of establishing communication channels between the mirrored databases 116. In fact, mirrored databases are specifically designed to transfer data between the databases and thereby establish a communication path. Hence, for these reasons, claim 23 additionally distinguishes from Hanson. Claim 24 includes similar limitations.

Opher et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Hanson. Figures 5 and 7 of Opher clearly disclose that connection paths can be made between storage devices which is specifically excluded in claims 23 and 24.

Brendel et al. discloses a worldwide web server with a delayed resource-binding for resource based load balancing on a distributive resource multi-node network. Again, Brendel et al. discloses various routers, load balancers and network connections that can clearly establish connections between storage devices and also includes various elements disposed upstream from the storage device that severely limit the speed for access of data. The present invention was specifically designed to eliminate the use of networks to access data which are slow and cumbersome. For these reasons, Applicant's invention and the claim language set forth above specifically distinguish over Brendel et al.

With respect to Chong et al., connection paths between the switches, illustrated in Figure 5, provide access directly between storage device 1 and storage device 2. For these reasons, Chong specifically teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention.

For all of these reasons, newly presented claims 23 and 24 distinguish from the art of record.

This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

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